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FLOOR DEBATE

April 22, 2003 LB 759

18 ayes, 19 nays, Mr. President, on the amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion to adopt the Chambers amendment was not successful. And I do raise the call.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend this component of the committee amendments with FA1331. (Legislative Journal pages 1353-1354.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on FA1331.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm still working on page 4. This time, lines 12 through 14 would be stricken from the existing law. And I will read that language. And it's in subsection (f): "Sixth, beginning July 1, 2001, the State Treasurer shall place the equivalent of two cents of such tax in the Information Technology Infrastructure Fund." I guess we would call this, as an acronym, ITIF. So I'm saying we should adopt this amendment, free up that 2 cents in tobacco money. Once again, my amendment does not raise the tax on cigarettes. My amendment does not cut any program that benefits the people. And my amendment, as has happened before today, is likely to be voted down. But there were more votes on the last motion, the last amendment, than on the other two combined. I do not take that to mean that I will get even more votes on this amendment. But I am watching and paying attention to what we are doing. I am analyzing it, and I am arriving at conclusions, not all of which I will state here today. But the results of those conclusions will be felt when we get up onto the appropriations bill. Others are just sitting back, feeling that by the time we get to that bill I will have mellowed out and changed. But that is not going to happen. And I'm going to hold everybody here for a long time, because you're going to have trouble getting through the things that you want, in the same way that I'm having trouble getting through the things that I want. But that is the way we operate around here. This amendment is of great merit. I would like to ask Senator Wehrbein a question. He may have the answer and he may not, because he's not on the Revenue Committee.